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ABSTRACT

This book for teachers and administrators describes an approach to teaching that requires students to think, analyze, problem solve, and make meaning of what they have learned. Designed to be a companion guide to Teaching for Understanding: Linking Research with Practice, it shows teachers how to use the four critical components of the teaching for understanding framework: (1) generative topics, (2) understanding goals, (3) performances of understanding, and (4) ongoing assessment. Using classroom examples from science, mathematics, language arts, and social studies, and reflecting on the input of practicing teachers, the book shows how teachers can: choose topics that engage student interest and connect readily to other subjects; set coherent unit and course goals; create activities that develop and demonstrate students' understanding; and improve student performance by providing continual feedback. Brief case studies of teachers using this approach illustrate the process in action. Simple planning sheets and teaching units are included to help teachers develop curriculum. Reflection sections at the end of each chapter suggest related activities, issues, and questions to facilitate further exploration of the chapter's ideas. (SM)

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